

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 12, with the following amended paragraph:

The computation program of the DES that is ~~used~~ used in the electronic component must therefore be modified to include the countermeasure method of the invention. An example of an execution flow chart of the invention, using the countermeasure method at the start of and at the end of the DES, as in the embodiment described with reference to Figures 7 and 8, is shown in Figure 11. In this example, each of the sequences SEQA and SEQB comprises the first three rounds and each of the sequences SEQA' and SEQB' comprises the last three rounds.